

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (amended) A method of generating a contrast enhanced image of a human or non-human animal subject which comprises administering to said subject an effective amount of a magnetic resonance imaging contrast agent and generating an image of at least part of said subject containing said agent, wherein said agent comprises a physiologically tolerable [lanthanide]Europium compound, preferably a chelate complex of Europium or a physiologically tolerable salt thereof having first and second oxidation states which [differ]differs in relaxivity by a factor of at least 5, and wherein said Europium compound is activated by switching between the II and III oxidation states of metal ions *in vivo* whereby contrast difference is enhanced in a body region in which conversion between the oxidation states occurs. [which is convertible *in vivo* from said first to said second oxidation state whereby contrast is enhanced in a body region in which conversion to said second state does or does not occur.]

Please amend claim 2 as follows:

2. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said agent comprises a physiologically tolerable [lanthanide]Europium compound or salt thereof having first and second oxidation states which differ in relaxivity by a factor of at least 10.

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

3. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said agent comprises a physiologically tolerable [lanthanide]Europium compound or salt thereof having first and second oxidation states which differ in relaxivity by a factor of at least 20.

Please amend claim 4 as follows:

A1
4. (amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein said agent comprises a physiologically tolerable ~~[lanthanide]~~ Europium compound or salt thereof having first and second oxidation states which differ in relaxivity by a factor of at least 100.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

A2
6. (amended) A method as claimed in claim [5] 1 wherein said change between two paramagnetic states is effected as a change from a spherically symmetric electronic ground state to a non-spherically symmetric excited state. ~~[non-spherically symmetric electronic ground state to a spherically symmetric electronic ground state, or a change from a non-spherically symmetric electronic ground state to a spherically symmetric excited state.]~~

Please amend claim 10 as follows:

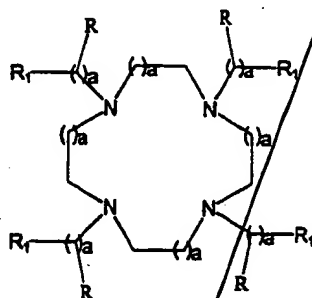
Sub B1
A3
10. (amended) A method as claimed in [any one of claims 7 to 9] claim 1 wherein said chelate complex is a complex of a chelant selected from the group consisting of DTPA, EDTA, DTPA-BMA, DO3A, DOTA, HP-DO3A, TMT and DPDP.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

11. (amended) A method as claimed in [any one of claims 7 to 9] claim 1 wherein said chelate complex is a complex of a chelant selected from the group consisting of porphyrins and porphyrin-like molecules, phthalocyanines, crown ethers, hemin, heme, chelants having a square planar symmetry, cryptands and cryptates.

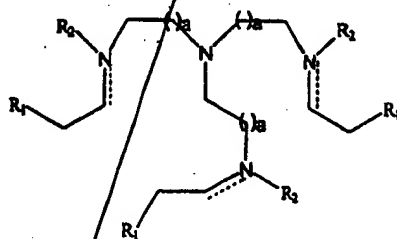
Please amend claim 12 as follows:

12. (amended) A method as claimed in [any one of claims 7 to 9] claim 1 wherein said chelate complex is a complex of a chelant selected from compounds of formulae (I), (II), (III), (IV), (V) and (VI):



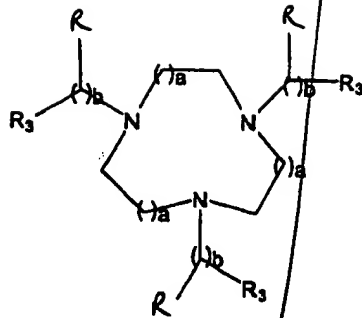
(I)

where each a independently represents an integer between 1 and 3, each R independently represents hydrogen or hydroxy and each R_1 independently represents a carboxylate, phosphate, thioacid, thiol, amino alkoxide or hydroxy group;



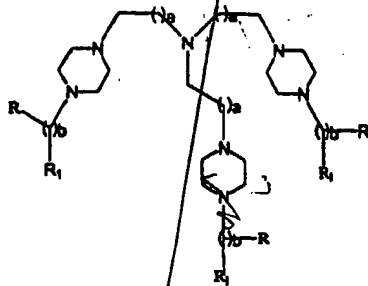
(II)

where a and R_1 are as hereinbefore defined and each R_2 independently represents hydrogen, C_{1-6} alkyl or aryl, with the proviso that R_2 is absent when the double bond is present on the same nitrogen;



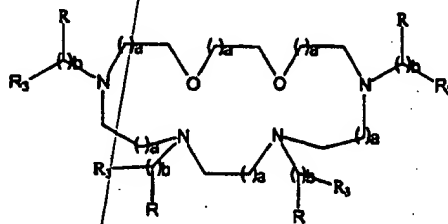
(III)

where a, R and R₂ are as hereinbefore defined, b is an integer between 0-3 and each R₃ independently represents R₁, NR-NR₂-COO^θ, or N=N-COO^θ when b is positive or each R₃ independently represents N=CH-COO^θ or NR₂-CH₂-COO^θ;



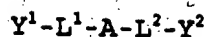
(IV)

where a, b, R and R₁ are as hereinbefore defined;



(V)

where a, b, R and R₃ are as hereinbefore defined;



|
L³

|
Y³

(VI)

where A is N, CR₄, P, P=O, *cis,cis,cis*-1,3,5-trisubstituted-cyclohexane or an N,N',N''-trisubstituted-triaza 9 to 14 membered macrocyclic ring;

L¹, L², L³ are linker groups which are independently chosen from C₁₋₄ alkylene, C₄₋₈ cycloalkylene or C₄₋₈ o-arylene;

Y¹, Y², Y³ are independently chosen from -NH₂, -B(=O)OZ, -N=CR₅-B(=O)OZ, -NR₅-CR₆-B(=O)OZ, -N[CR₆-B(=O)Q]₂ and -O-CR₆-B(=O)OZ where B is C or PR₆, each Q is independently -OZ or -NR₆, and Z is H or a counter-ion;

each R₄ and R₅ group is independently chosen from H, C₁₋₅ alkyl, C₁₋₅ alkoxyalkyl, C₁₋₅ hydroxyalkyl, C₁₋₅ aminoalkyl, C₅₋₁₀ aryl or C₁₋₆ fluoroalkyl;

R₆ is OH, C₁₋₆ alkyl, C₁₋₆ alkoxyalkyl, C₁₋₆ fluoroalkyl, C₁₋₁₀ alkoxy or C₅₋₁₀ aryl; with the proviso that at least one of Y¹, Y² and Y³ is -N=CR₅-B(=O)OZ.

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

13. (amended) A method as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1 wherein said agent is conjugated to a biological vector capable of targeting said agent to a desired region of the body.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

15. (amended) A method as claimed in [any preceding claim] claim 1 wherein conversion between said first and second oxidation states is effected *in vivo* by a localised normal or abnormal biological process, by an administered chemical agent or by illumination of said agent with light.

Please amend claim 19 as follows:

AS 19. (amended) An MR contrast agent composition comprising as an MR contrast agent a physiologically tolerable [lanthanide]Europium compound, preferably a chelate complex of Europium or a physiologically tolerable[or] salt thereof having first and second oxidation states which [differ]differs in relaxivity by a factor of at least 5, and wherein said Europium compound is activated by switching between the II and III oxidation states of the metal ions *in vivo*[which is convertible *in vivo* from said first to said second oxidation state] whereby contrast difference is enhanced in a body region in which conversion [to said second state does or does not occur]between the oxidation states occurs, together with an optionally encapsulated physiologically tolerable trigger substance capable of converting said contrast agent between said first and second oxidation states.